responsible for the gross environmental mismanagement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the plant is not only hazardous to the human beings around but also is likely to affect the agriculture environment of the place;

(d) if so, what action Government have taken to avert this human tragedy; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Caustic Soda Plant is a joint venture of the Government of Bihar and the Birlas. The plant has installed necessary pollution control equipments but the effluents are not within the prescribed standards. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 3727/85 has ordered the industry to comply with the standards by 31.12.1993.

(c) The plant falls under hazardous category and can cause damage to human life and agriculture if adequate pollution control measures are not taken.

(d) The Government have taken the following measures:—

(i) The Bihar State Pollution Control Board has been regularly monitoring the plant.

(ii) The consent has been refused by the Board to operate the unit.

(e) Does not arise.

Invitation to Environment Ministers of Western and Eastern Countries For a Conference

1608. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS to be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that he has invited the Environment Ministers of several Western and Asian countries for a two-day conference in early 1994 on "Unresolved international environmental issues" alongwith representatives of the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 26th November, 1993;

(b) if so, how many countries have accepted his invitation so far and whether any Agenda has been finalised for the proposed meeting in India, indicating the venue thereof;

(c) whether any follow-up action taken by India alongwith other concerned countries on the decisions taken at the previous such conferences held in 1992-93 and so far on the need for more improvement of global environmental conditions; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Government of India has proposed to organise a meeting of Ministers of the Environment of select developed and developing countries to discuss global environmental issues and to informally review the action taken as a follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development of June 1992. The dates and venue of the conference will be firmed up keeping in view the convenience of the invited ministers.

Reserve Forest Land in Assam

1609. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Reserve Forest land in Assam at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of hectares of Reserve Forest land have been occupied by various illegal encroachers in Assam;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to remove illegal encroachment on this land?